

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I feel that the proposed merger of echostar and Directv would be a excellent thing for consumers. I work at a large retail business and everyday, more and more, people come in to sign up for satilite service because of the astonishingly high rates of cable. One thing that holds people back is the inability to get local programming. This merger would allow the people to get their local channels. Also, it would allow for a quicker switch to high definition with more channels available to everyone. I was very disappointed to see Echostar loose its challenge to the Supreme Court about carrying other cities local channels because it would have allowed people where I live to get HD broadcasts. I live in central Wisconsin and people are ready for HD here, but our little local stations cannot afford the switch over for some time, and that is a shame. I wish Wisconsin would show a little of its 'progressive' heritage and vote for the merger. It can only benefit the customers. Please vote in favor of the merger.

Sincerely,

Ben Hommerding
103 Short St
Wausau, WI 54403